

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON DONALD S. THORSON,
NEW JUSTICE OF ONTARIO APPEALS COURT

1. JUSTICE MINISTER BASFORD ANNOUNCED JULY 5 THAT
DONALD THORSON HAS BEEN APPDINTED TO THE FIFTEEN-MEMBER
ONTARIO COURT OF APPEALS. FROM 1977 TO 1978
MR. THORSON WAS THE SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISOR TO
PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AND FROM 1973 TO 1977 WAS DEPUTY
MINISTER OF JUSTICE. PREVIOUSLY HE WAS A FEDERAL LAWYER
AND THEN CHIEF LEGAL COUNCIL OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

2. THORSON WAS CHIEF DRAFTSMAN OF THE CANADA PENSION
PLAN, THE PRESENT DIVORCE ACT, THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
ACT, AND THE MAJOR TAX CHANGES OF THE EARLY 1970'S.
HE IS CREDITED WITH WRITING MOST OF THE FEDERAL LAWS
SINCE PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU ENTERED POLITICS IN 1965.

3. HE WAS BORN IN WINNIPEG TO THE LATE J. T. THORSON,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE EXCHEQUER COURT OF CANADA (NOW
THE FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA). THORSON, A LIBERAL, IS
MARRIED AND HAS THREE TEENAGE DAUGHTERS.

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4. COMMENT. THORSON WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AUTHORS
OF THE RECENTLY-INTRODUCED BILL TO AMEND THE BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA ACT. IN VIEW OF HIS BACKGROUND, HE IS
CLEARLY QUALIFIED FOR HIS POSITION ON THE ONTARIO COURT
OF APPEALS. IN OUR DEALINGS WITH HIM WE HAVE FOUND HIM
OPEN AND FRIENDLY.

ENDERS

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